and 2,500 were delayed due to consequential reasons. The average duration of delay was about 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Late running of 355 Itarsi-Jhansi passenger train

1741. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 355 Down Itarsi-Jhansi passenger train on the Central Railway has been running late regularly from the originating station for the last three years; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to run this train in time regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Punctuality of train has not been satisfactory due to on-going electrification works on the section.

(b) Electrification having been completed upto Itarsi the punctuality is likely to improve.

Interview for post Graduate Teachers by K.V.S.

1742. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some additional candidates are being called for interview for the posts of Post Graduate Teachers by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) if so, whether the cut off marks have been reduced; and

(c) if so, what is the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) For recruitment of Teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas, Kendria Vidyalaya Sangathan draws up a select panel larger than the declared number of vacancies. Number of candidates called for interview is in the ratio of 1:8. The cut off marks are determined accordingly.

Age of superannuation of teaching and non-teaching staff of K.V.S.

1743. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the age of superannuation of teaching and non-teaching staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to change it;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the dates from which the changes will come into force in respect of non-teaching and teaching staff?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The age of superannuation of Teaching and Non-Teaching staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is 60 years.

(b) and (c) In the Central Government, the age of retirement for non-teaching staff has been 58 years and that for teaching staff was 60. Based on a review of different ages of retirement for the teaching staff of the schools under different Central Government Departments, Government of India decided in 1988 that in all these institutions the age of retirement for teachers would be 58 years. However, such of those teachers as enjoy the benefit of retirement at 60 years would get protection for this benefit. In other words, the new stipulation for retirement at 58 years of age shall apply only to future entrants.

While extending to the employees of autonomous organisations, the benefits of revised pay scales based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, it was felt that the same should be extended to them subject to

the stipulation that the conditions of their service should also be similar to those in Government Departments. Accordingly, for the teaching and non-teaching staff under autonomous organisations including the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, the age of retirement shall be 58 years. In the case of these employees also protection for the benefit of retirement at 60 years will be given to those who already enjoy it. Retirement at 58 years will be applicable only to future entrants.

(d) Formal orders are yet to issue.

कराची में भारतीय लड़कियों की कथित बिक्री

1744. **श्री प्रमोद महाजन:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान जालंधर से प्रकाशित होने वाले दिनांक 10 जून, 1989 के पंजाब केसरी में "कराची की मंडी में भारतीय और बांग्लादेशी लडकियों की नीलामी" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि भारतीय और बांग्लादेश की लड़कियों की कराची के बाजार में नीलामी की जाती है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं और इस मामले में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव): (क) और (ख) सरकार ने समाचार पत्रों में छपी इन खबरों को देखा है कि अवांछनीय लोगों द्वारा कराची में लड़कियों को बेचा जा रहा है। कराची स्थित अपने प्रमुख कौंसलावास के माध्यम से हमने इसकी छानबीन की है। इस बात का कोई प्रमाण नहीं है और न ही इस बात की पुष्टि हुई है कि किसी भारतीय लड़की को बेचा गया है।

Separate agency for Metropolitan Transport System under the Railways

1745. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a separate agency for the construction of metropolitan transport system under their jurisdiction; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Such a proposal is under consideration.

(b) The proposal envisaged the setting up of a public sector company, named the Indian Metro Railway Construction Company, as a specialised agency for undertaking construction of metro railway systems for Indian cities, on behalf of the State Governments/local authorities.

Revamping of D.T.C. structure

1746. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a press report captioned "78 p.c. commuters dis-satisfied with DTC" as reported in the *Hindustan Times* of 1st May, 1989;

(b) if so, whether the findings of the report of the Indian Institute of Public Opinion have since been published;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to revamp the structure of DTC in view of findings of the report; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?